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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/620,791	07/16/2003	Christine J. Phillips	US 60S11883-7	1105
7590	05/24/2006		EXAMINER	
Kenneth S. Wheelock General Electric Company One Plastics Avenue Pittsfield, MA 01201				MOORE, MARGARET G
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		1712		

DATE MAILED: 05/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/620,791	PHILLIPS ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Margaret G. Moore	1712

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1 to 16 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2,4,6 and 8 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 to 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

1. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species: the silicone compounds 1), 2) and 3) in claim 1. The species are independent or distinct because the are structurally distinct.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claims 1, 5 and 9 to 16 are generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species.

MPEP § 809.02(a).

2. During a telephone conversation with Kenneth Wheelock on 5/17/06 a provisional election was made with traverse to prosecute the invention of silicone compound 2), claims 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 to 16. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 2, 4, 6 and 8 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

3. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

4. Please note that in the parent application, now US 6,630,415, the claims are limited to the species represented as silicone compound 1). A double patenting rejection would have been necessitated had applicants elected 1).

5. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 to 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, the subscript modifying (R³₂SiO) is unclear. It appears from the rest of the claim language that this should be "d". Clarification is required.

In claim 3, reference to the "treatment silicone compound of claim 1" is confusing since claim 1 is, in fact, drawn to a polymeric fabric.

For claim 5, this language appears to be redundant since a polymeric fabric treated with the silicone of claim 1 is what is, in fact, claimed in claim 1. Such a rejection applies as well to claim 7.

In claim 14, it appears that this claim should depend upon claim 12, not claim 13, since claim 13 already limits the polymer to polyethylene.

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 to 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burkhart et al. in view of Sabia et al.

Burkhart et al. teach a method of making polyether siloxanes. See the siloxane made in Example 1, which meets the elected polysiloxane polyether (2). Column 4, lines 3 to 5, teaches that the siloxanes can be used "for the same purposes as the polyether siloxanes known from the state of the art".

Sabia et al. teach under the Background of the Invention that polyalkylene oxide modified silicone copolymers are known and impart hydrophilic properties to polyester, polypropylene, polyethylene, cellulose and various papers. This meets the various polymeric fabrics in claims 9 to 16.

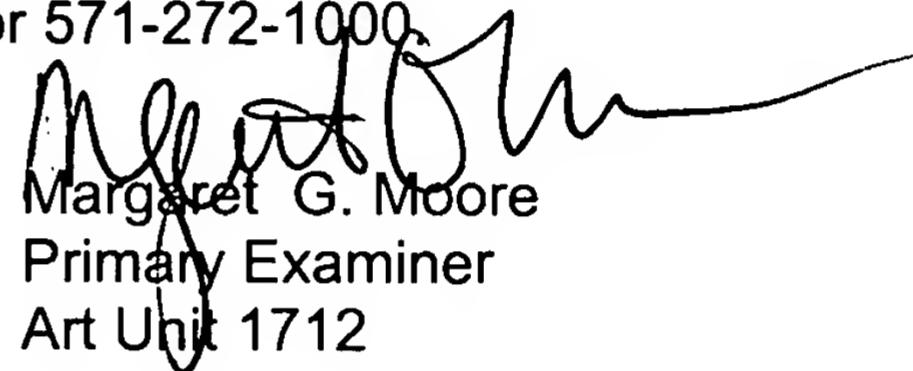
Since Sabia et al. teach that it is known to treat polymeric fabrics such as those claimed with polyalkylene oxide silicone copolymers in an effort to render them hydrophilic and since Burkhart et al. teach that the siloxanes therein can be used in any known manner, one having ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to treat a polymeric fabric with the polymer prepared in Example 1 of Burkhart. Motivation arrives from the expectation of preparing a final product that is hydrophilic. In this manner the instant claims are rendered obvious. Please note that it is *prima facie* obvious to use a known composition in an known manner to obtain the properties and benefits known to be associated therewith.

8. Ishikawa et al. is cited as being of general interest. This reference teaches the elected polymer as a treating agent for a polymeric fabric but does not qualify as prior art against the instant claims due to applicants' priority date. Bailey is also cited as being of general interest. This reference requires a SiH group that is not found in the instant claims.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Margaret G. Moore whose telephone number is 571-272-1090. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Wednesday and Friday, 10am to 4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Randy Gulakowski can be reached on (571) 272-1302. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Margaret G. Moore
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1712

mgm
5/22/06